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Iran players celebrate their victory over Wales in Doha on Friday | AP

IRAN STUN WALES

Iran scored twice deep in stoppage time to stun Wales 2-0 on Friday and breathe new life into a World Cup campaign overshadowed by mass anti-government protests at home. Ramin Rezaeian added a second goal moments after Rouzbeh Cheshmi scored the first

MORE ON: P17

Today's matches

Tunisia vs Australia 3.30pm
Poland vs Arabia 6.30pm
France vs Denmark 9.30pm
Argentina vs Mexico 12.30am (Sun)

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SC paves way for Teltumbde's release

Rejects NIA plea against bail granted by Bombay High Court last week in Elgar Parishad case

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a special leave petition filed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) challenging the bail granted to Elgar Parishad case accused Anand Teltumbde by the Bombay High Court last week, paving the way for his release from Taloja jail.

A bench of Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and Justice Hima Kohli, however, clarified that the trial against the accused would go on without being influenced by the HC's observations in its November 18 bail order.

Teltumbde has been in Taloja Central Prison since 2020 for his alleged role in an Elgar Parishad event held in Pune on December 31, 2017. Violence erupted in Bhima Koregaon a day later, as speakers and other performers at the event allegedly made provocative speeches. He is facing charges under the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

Anand Teltumbde

Appearing for the NIA, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati argued that Teltumbde was actively involved in propagating the ideology of the banned CPI (Maoist) outfit. "Look at the larger canvas at which CPI (Maoist) works. If it's proscribed terrorist organisation, then even assistance or affiliation is an offence. But he's actively involved in propagation of ideology, organising, fund transfer etc," she added.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Teltumbde, argued that the documents produced by the NIA to justify his arrest were not recovered from him. Also, emails purportedly sent by him were actually recovered from the laptop of co-accused Rona Wilson, he pointed out.

"Threshold under the UAPA Act is very high. He wrote about impact of neo-liberal globalisation on Dalits. Wherever there is a Dalit issue, he is there. In the process there is some organisation which is closely related to some other organisation. If I am an academic and I give speech then that doesn't make me a terrorist," Sibal argued. He also said Teltumbde did not even attend the Elgar Parishad event.

UP shocker as teacher drills into boy's palm

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

IN a shocking incident, an instructor at a school in Uttar Pradesh ran a power drilling machine on the palm of a Class 5 student for failing to recite mathematical tables. The boy's left palm was cut but the presence of mind of another student saved him from deeper injury. The heinous crime took place at Basic Primary Model School in Prem Nagar area of Kanpur on Thursday.

Narrating the incident, the student, Vivan, said the instructor asked him to recite the table of 2 but he could not. "Anuj sir got infuriated and ran the drilling machine on my left hand. My friend Krishna, who was with me, pulled the plug but by then my hand had been cut," said Vivan.

According to local sources, the horrific incident happened when Vivan, 9, was passing through the library of the school, where instructor Anuj Pandey was overseeing some repairs.

Will bring in Uniform Civil Code in state: CM

RAMACHANDRA V GUNARI @ Shivamogga

CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai said on Friday that the state government is seriously thinking of implementing a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the state and thereby ensure equality in the society. Speaking at the inaugural function of the state BJP's Prashiksha Varga here, Bommai said UCC is a common law which should be applicable to every citizen of the society. "The government does not hesitate to bring in this law in the state", he asserted.

The Constitution of India lists the UCC among the Directive Principles of State Policy, which makes it a desirable objective, but it is not justiciable. Over the decades, the BJP in particular has pushed for a UCC, and the Supreme Court has on a few occasions expressed itself in favour of it.

It may be recalled here that in May 2022, the Uttarakhand government announced a committee led by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Desai to implement a UCC. On October 29, 2022, Gujarat Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi announced that the government is planning to implement UCC and a committee will be formed in this regard. Assam and Himachal Pradesh too have expressed a similar intent to implement UCC. P4

ECI to BBMP: Ensure foolproof voters list

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Election Commission of India (ECI) has placed two senior officers under suspension and ordered foolproof revision of the voters list. The move comes in the wake of alleged impersonation by an NGO which allegedly tampered with voters data in Shivajinagar, Chikpete and Mahadevpura assembly segments.

The suspended officials are S. Rangappa, Additional District Election Officer (ADEO), BBMP, Central Lok Sabha in charge of Shivajinagar and Chickpete constituencies, and K. Srinivas, ADEO cum-Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban, in charge of Mahadevapura constituency. A departmental inquiry has also been ordered against them.

The ECI said that the Chief Secretary, CEO, Karnataka, and the BBMP, should ensure that the period of claims and objections under Special Summary Revision (SSR) should be extended by 15 days.

EXPRESS READ

Gay marriage: SC seeks Centre's response

FOUR years after decriminalising consensual sex between homosexuals, the Supreme Court on Friday sought the Centre's response on same-sex marriage under the Special Marriage Act. The Act provides for civil marriage for Indian citizens irrespective of their religion or faith | P9

Uneven soil in B'luru slows down Metro TBM work

The spot on Tannery Road where a sinkhole occurred | EXPRESS

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

BANGALORE Metro Rail Corporation Limited's (BMRCL) Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) 'Bhadra' is facing a peculiar problem, and it is considerably slowing down its pace of work.

The varied nature of soil that caused two sinkholes in its 1,200-metre tunnelling stretch between Venkateshpura and Shaadi Mahal, and concerns about the safety of a statue of Dr B R Ambedkar that could have got damaged because of vibrations or possible cave-ins, have slowed down TBM Bhadra's progress in the phase-2 Namma Metro works.

Last month, TBM Bhadra's operations led to a second sinkhole on Tannery Road. Not many knew about it as it was within a barricaded portion on Tannery Road.

This is the second time Bhadra is facing a sinkhole issue. CONTINUED ON: P2

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